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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY [signature] DATE 6/1/81
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

RSR SEP 05

III MAF PASS INFO 113 TO POLAD FRANCIS

FROM COLEBAUGH

REF: HUE 163

SUBJECT: VC ANTI-ELECTION PLANS, THUA THIEN

1. DURING THE LAST 3 MONTHS THE VC INCIDENT RATE HAS CONTINUED TO RISE. IN JUNE THERE WERE 39 INCIDENTS, JULY 44 INCIDENTS, AND AUGUST 66 INCIDENTS. OF THESE FIGURES MOST WERE OF THE TERROR, SABOTAGE OR PROPAGANDA CATEGORY WHICH CAN BE CONSIDERED AS AIMED PRIMARILY AT ELECTIONS (JUNE-35; JULY-34; AUGUST-65). THESE FIGURES ARE GREATER THAN FIGURES PRECEEDING MAY 1965 ELECTION (MARCH-51; APRIL-34; MAY -24). FOR MONTH OF SEPTEMBER THERE HAVE BEEN NO RPT NO REPORTED INCIDENTS TO DATE.

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2. INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM [redacted] INDICATE THAT VC HAVE BEEN EMPHASIZING PROPAGANDA FOR BOYCOTT OF ELECTIONS; DISTORTION OF COMING ELECTIONS AS PLOT OF THIEU-KY AND AMERICANS; INCREASING EFFORT AGAINST INFILTRATION OF HAMLETS AND ACTION AGAINST GVN CADRE; TEARING DOWN CANDIDATE AND ELECTION POSTERS; AND TERRORIZING, KIDNAPPING OR ASSASSINATING KEY PEOPLE. EXHORTATIONS AGAINST VOTING SEEM TO CONFORM TO RELATIE CONTROL VC HAVE IN AREA. IF VC CONTROL FORBID PEOPLE FROM VOTING ON PAIN OF DEATH; IF CONTESTED AREA WARN PEOPLE AGAINST VOTING AND THREATEN RETALIATION; IF IN GVN CONTROLLED AREA RECOGNIZE PEOPLE MIGHT BE FORCED TO VOTE AND ORDER THEM CAST BLANK BALLOTS. THREATS ARE ALSO BEING MADE THAT VOTING SITES WILL BE DESTROYED.

3. THERE ARE ALSO INDICATIONS THAT VC PLAN LARGE UNIT MILITARY OPERATIONS TO OPPOSE NCA ELECTIONS. VIETNAMESE [redacted] INDICATE SUCH ACTIVITIES WILL BEGIN BETWEEN SEPTEMBER 5-8. NEED TO BUILD UP MAY BE REASON FOR LACK OF INCIDENTS SO FAR THIS MONTH. UNITS REPORTEDLY INVOLVED ARE: VC 800 BN IN HUONG DIEN, PHONG DIEN, QUANG DIEN IN THUA THIEN AND MAI LINH IN QUANG TRI; VC 804 BN IN NAM HOA; VC 810 BN IN PHU LOC;

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AND NVA 6TH REGT WORKING WITH 800 BN IN PHONG DIEN, HUONG DIEN, QUANG DIEN AND HUONG TRA. REPORTEDLY ABOVE UNITS HAVE RECEIVED ORDERS TO OPERATE IN LARGE UNITS TO DISRUPT ELECTIONS UNTIL SEPTEMBER 12 AT WHICH THEY ARE TO BREAK UP BUT CONTINUE OPERATIONS IN GVN CONTROLLED AREAS.

4. IN HUE CITY THERE HAVE BEEN REPORTS OF TERROR AND ASSASSINATION CELLS INFILTRATED INTO CITY. A MEMBER OF ONE SUCH ASSASSINATION SQUAD HAS BEEN ARRESTED. UNDER QUESTIONING HE HAS ADMITTED TO MISSION OF ASSASSINATING LIST 3 CANDIDATES NGUYEN VAN NGAI, TRAN DIEN AND DUONG XUAN HUYEN AND HUE CANDIDATE VO HUU THU. VC WERE OPERATING USING FORGED RD CADRE ID CARDS.

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5. IN ANTICIPATION OF VC ACTIONS POLICE AND 1ST DIVISION HAVE PREPARED OPS PLANS TO COMBAT VC ACTIVITIES. 1ST DIV PLAN SENT HUE #163. AT PRESENT POLICE ARE CONDUCTING ROUND-UP OPERATIONS AGAINST KNOWN OR SUSPECTED VC AGENTS IN CITY.

[redacted] ELECTION CANDIDATES ARE BEING SEGREGATED BY LIST AND ASSIGNED SPECIAL SLEEPING QUARTERS UNDER POLICE GUARD.

6. COMMENTS: PRECAUTIONS ARE BEING TAKEN BUT VC ACTIVITIES HAVING

EFFECT. [redacted] SOURCES INDICATE A HOPED FOR 80-85 PERCENT VOTER TURN-OUT WITH 60-65 PERCENT LEGAL VOTES. ONE REFLECTION OF VC ACTIVITIES IS FACT MANY PEOPLE ASSIGNED TO RUN ELECTION SITES HAVE REPORTEDLY APPROACHED PROVINCE CHIEF AND ASKED TO BE RELIEVED OF DUTIES. ALTHOUGH NOT YET CLEAR HOW EXTREME THIS TYPE RELUCTANCE TO PARTICIPATE IS PEOPLE DO SEEM UNWILLING TO STAY AT VOTING STIE ALL DAY AS OPPOSED TO GOING, VOTING AND IMMEDIATELY LEAVING POLLING PLACE.

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